

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 36123 270748Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 VO-05 CA-01 INSE-00 DODE-00
SY-05 AID-05 /032 W
-----014321 270751Z /20

R 270649Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
SECSTATE WASHDC 6762

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 36123

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO VIENTIANE FROM UDORN
24 DEC 77 REPEATED FYI:

QTE
C O N F I D E T I A L UDORN 0218

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF TH LA
SUBJECT: BUNG KAN REFUGEE SITUATION

REF: A) UDORN 217 B) UDORN 216

1. BUNG KAN DISTRICT POLICE AND SECURITY OFFICIALS, AS
WELL AS HMONG (MEO) REFUGEE SPOKESMEN, CONFIRMED TO
CONREP DECEMBER 23 THAT LATEST GROUP OF HMONG REFUGEES
TO ENTER DISTRICT FROM LAOS NUMBERED ONLY 136, AS
REPORTED REF A. POLICE OFFICIALS STATED THAT NEWEST
ARRIVALS, MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE WOMEN AND CHILDREN, BROUGHT
OUT WITH THEM A VERY MODEST SUPPLY OF WEAPONS CONSISTING
OF 2 M-16S, 10 M-2 CARBINES, 2 AK-47S AND 1 M-79.

2. ACCORDING TO POLICE OFFICIALS, TOTAL OF 365 HMONG
REFUGEES HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN DISTRICT SINCE MID-NOVEMBER.
POLICE SAID THAT THEY TRANSFERRED 220 OF THIS NUMBER
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TO NONG KHAI PROVINCIAL DETENTION CENTER DECEMBER 19 AND
20. THE REMAINING 145 ARE BEING HOUSED IN DISTRICT
POLICE COMPOUND AND NEARBY WAT.

3. CONREP INTERVIEWED SPOKESMAN FOR LATEST HMONG ARRIVALS
WHO REPORTED THAT GROUP OF 136 ARE FROM SIENG SEN AND
NA LARD VILLAGES IN PHU MA THAO AREA IN VICINITY OF

COORDINATES VF0264. HMONG SPOKESMAN SAID GROUP TREKKED THROUGH MOUNTAINS AND LOWLANDS FOR ELEVEN DAYS BEFORE CROSSING MEKONG RIVER AND ENTERING BUNG KAN DISTRICT DECEMBER 18. HE STATED THAT IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF HIS GROUP'S FLIGHT FROM LAOS WAS TO ESCAPE ARMED ATTACKS BY CONTINGENT OF HMONGS, ORIGINALLY FROM PHON LEP AREA IN VICINITY OF COORDINATES VF0880, WHO HAVE BEEN RECRUITED BY LPDR MILITARY UNITS TO ASSIST WITH SUPPRESION OPERATIONS AGAINST HMONGS STILL RESISTING VIENTIANE'S AUTHORITY.

4. HMONG REFUGEE SPOKESMEN AND DISTRICT POLICE OFFICIALS BOTH REPORT IT IS LIKELY THAT IN NEAR FUTURE MORE HMONGS FROM PHU MA THAO AREA WILL ATTEMPT TO CROSS BORDER INTO BUNG KAN DISTRICT. (PHU MA THAO MOUNTAIN IS LOCATED ACROSS MEKONG RIVER IN KHAMMOUAN PROVINCE APPROXIMATELY 40-50 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF BUNG KAN DISTRICT TOWN, RATHER THAN NORTHWEST AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTING, IN VICINITY OF COORDINATES UF9864). POLICE SOURCE STATED THAT DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF TRAVELLED TO NONG DOEN THA VILLAGE (SEE PARA 2 REF B) MORNING OF DECEMBER 23 TO DISCOURAGE ENTRY OF GROUP OF HMONGS REPORTEDLY SEEKING TO CROSS MEKONG RIVER AND ENTER DISTRICT AT THAT SITE.

5. WE MET WITH UNHCR NORTHEAST REPRESENTATIVE DECEMBER 23 WHO STATED THAT HE WAS IN BUNG KAN EARLIER THIS WEEK.
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HE SAID THAT HE HAS OBTAINED SAME INFORMATION FROM DISTRICT OFFICIALS REGARDING NUMBERS OF HMONG REFUGEES AS PROVIDED US. HE NOTED THAT HE IS SATISFIED THAT INFORMATION IS ACCURATE. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE DEPARTED FOR BUNG KAN DECEMBER 24 TO DISCUSS WITH DISTRICT OFFICIALS PROBLEM OF FEEDING HMONG REFUGEES STILL IN THEIR CUSTODY. HE SAID THAT HE IS REPORTING DETAILS OF BUNG KAN SITUATION TO UNHCR OFFICE IN BAMGKOK.

6. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE STATED FURTHER THAT NONG KHAI VICE GOVERNOR SOMBUN THAIROTCHAROMAT LEFT FOR BANGKOK DECEMBER 23 TO GIVE MOI OFFICIALS FIRST-HAND REPORT ON ON REFUGEE DEVELOPMENTS IN BUNG KAN.

7. COMMENT: AS A RESULT OF OUR INQUIRIES INTO SITUATION AT BUNG KAN IT APPEARS TO US THAT FIGURES IN BANGKOK POST NEWS ARTICLES DECEMBER 22 AND 23 OF 3000 OR "SEVERAL THOUSANDS" OF HMONG REFUGEES ENTERING DISTRICT ARE WILDLY EXAGERRATED. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE THUS FAR TO LOCATE ANY SUCH LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES IN BUNG KAN. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH REFUGEE SITUATION IN BUNG KAN AND TO REPORT ANY NEW SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

FINNEY UNQTE
O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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